

From: Joe Fish
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:23pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir / Madam:

Regarding the subject settlement, please be advised that there a large number of voting citizens who consider the settlement as currently proposed to be wholly unpalatable, and that, if it is implemented, we plan to express our displeasure with our votes in the rapidly approaching congressional elections.

As one employed in the IT field, I have seen the way in which the unlawful, anti-competitive nature of Microsoft's business practices have harmed nearly everyone in the community in some way, from individual consumers of electronics products, up to the behemoth-sized companies that directly compete with Microsoft for some markets (Sun, IBM, AOL-Time Warner, etc.)

Unfortunately, any settlement you propose comes too late to the party. Individuals have lost jobs, products have disappeared from consumer's lists of choices while the lawyers in Washington have wrangled. As this is unquestionably the case, you at the DOJ have the responsibility to at least ATTEMPT to ensure that Microsoft will not be allowed to use the same unlawful business practices on anyone they deem unfit to make profits in the IT business.

The settlement as currently structured does, in my view, little to nothing to curtail Microsoft's previous behavior, except possibly as it relates to competing Internet Browsing technologies, of which there are now none, thanks to Microsoft. While I feel that the IDEA of a 3-person panel dedicated to reviewing Microsoft actions is a good one, they need a much broader charter of powers and clearer definition of their ability to implement corrective measures than I was able to discern from the proposed settlement agreement. In my view, the terms, details, and especially EXCEPTIONS listed in the agreement appear to have been drafted by Microsoft's bevy of lawyers, working closely in concert with Waggoner-Edstrom and the host of other various and sundry marketeers, PR flacks, and other unscrupulous characters charged with ensuring Microsoft's continued march towards domination of all consumer spending decisions in the developed world.

Please consider the revision of this proposed agreement to be more in line with what many industry insiders consider to be a fairer solution, as detailed on this page.

Thank you for your time and attention.
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